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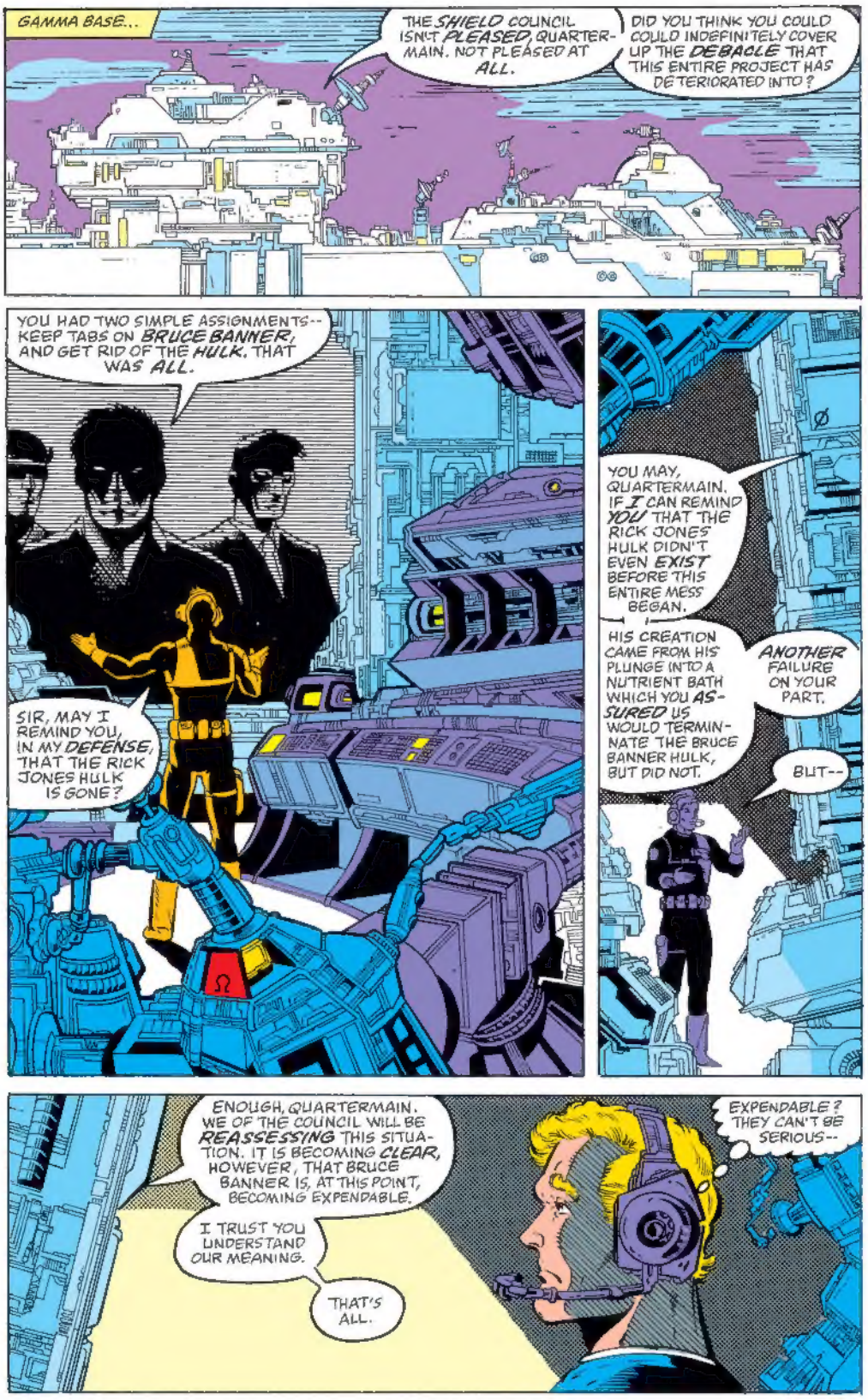
THE INCREDIBLE HULK® VS. X-FACTOR

GEIGER + McLEOD

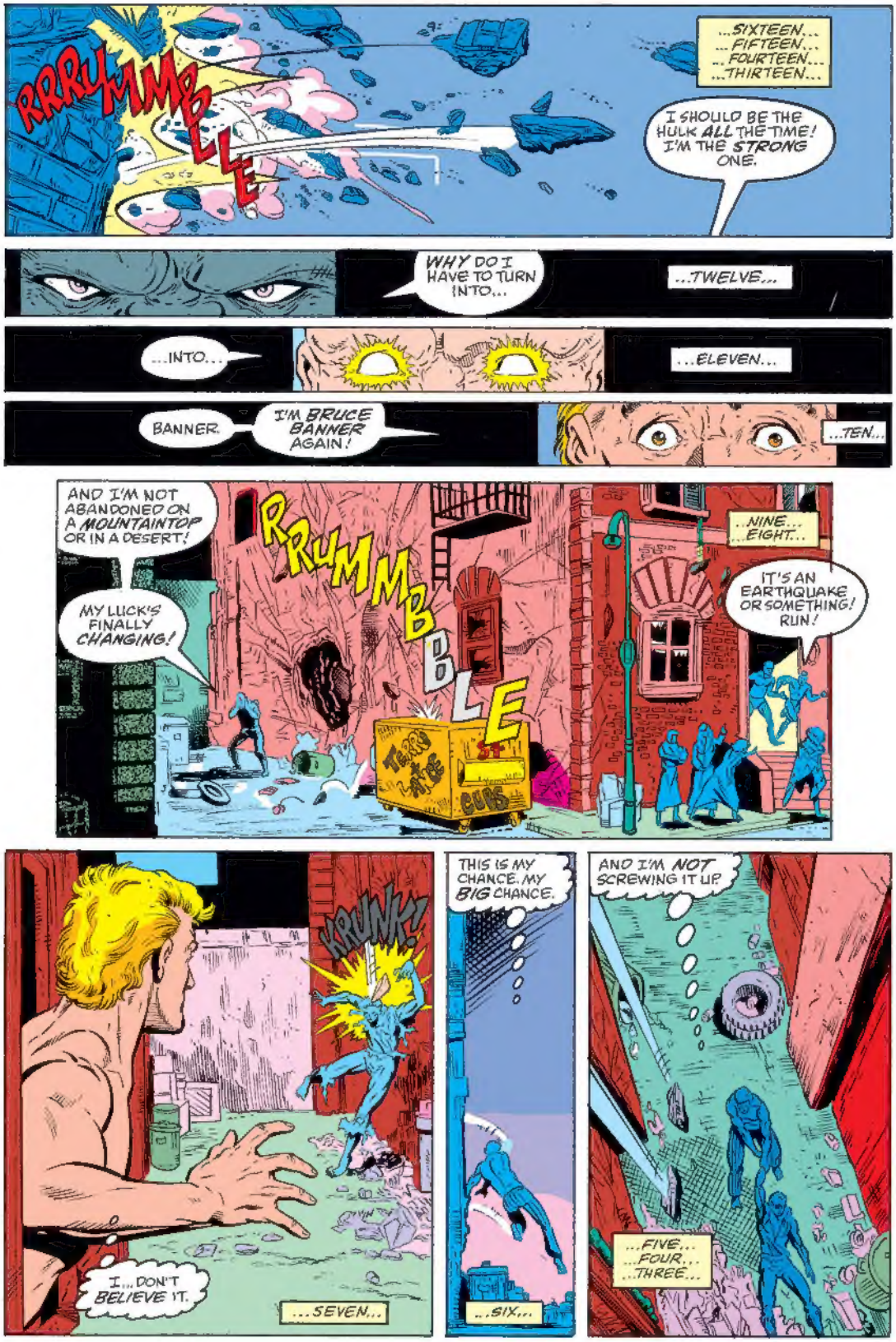

GAMMA BASE...
THE SHIELD COUNCIL ISN'T PLEASED, QUARTERMAIN. NOT PLEASED AT ALL.
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD COULD INDEFINITELY COVER UP THE DEBACLE THAT THIS ENTIRE PROJECT HAS DETERIORATED INTO?
YOU HAD TWO SIMPLE ASSIGNMENTS--KEEP TABS ON BRUCE BANNER, AND GET RID OF THE HULK. THAT WAS ALL.
SIR, MAY I REMIND YOU, IN MY DEFENSE, THAT THE RICK JONES HULK IS GONE?
YOU MAY, QUARTERMAIN. IF I CAN REMIND YOU THAT THE RICK JONES HULK DIDN'T EVEN EXIST BEFORE THIS ENTIRE MESS BEGAN.
HIS CREATION CAME FROM HIS PLUNGE INTO A NUTRIENT BATH WHICH YOU ASSURED US WOULD TERMINATE THE BRUCE BANNER HULK, BUT DID NOT.
ANOTHER FAILURE ON YOUR PART.
BUT--
ENOUGH, QUARTERMAIN. WE OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE REASSESSING THIS SITUATION. IT IS BECOMING CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BRUCE BANNER IS, AT THIS POINT, BECOMING EXPENDABLE.
I TRUST YOU UNDERSTAND OUR MEANING.
THAT'S ALL.
EXPENDABLE? THEY CAN'T BE SERIOUS--

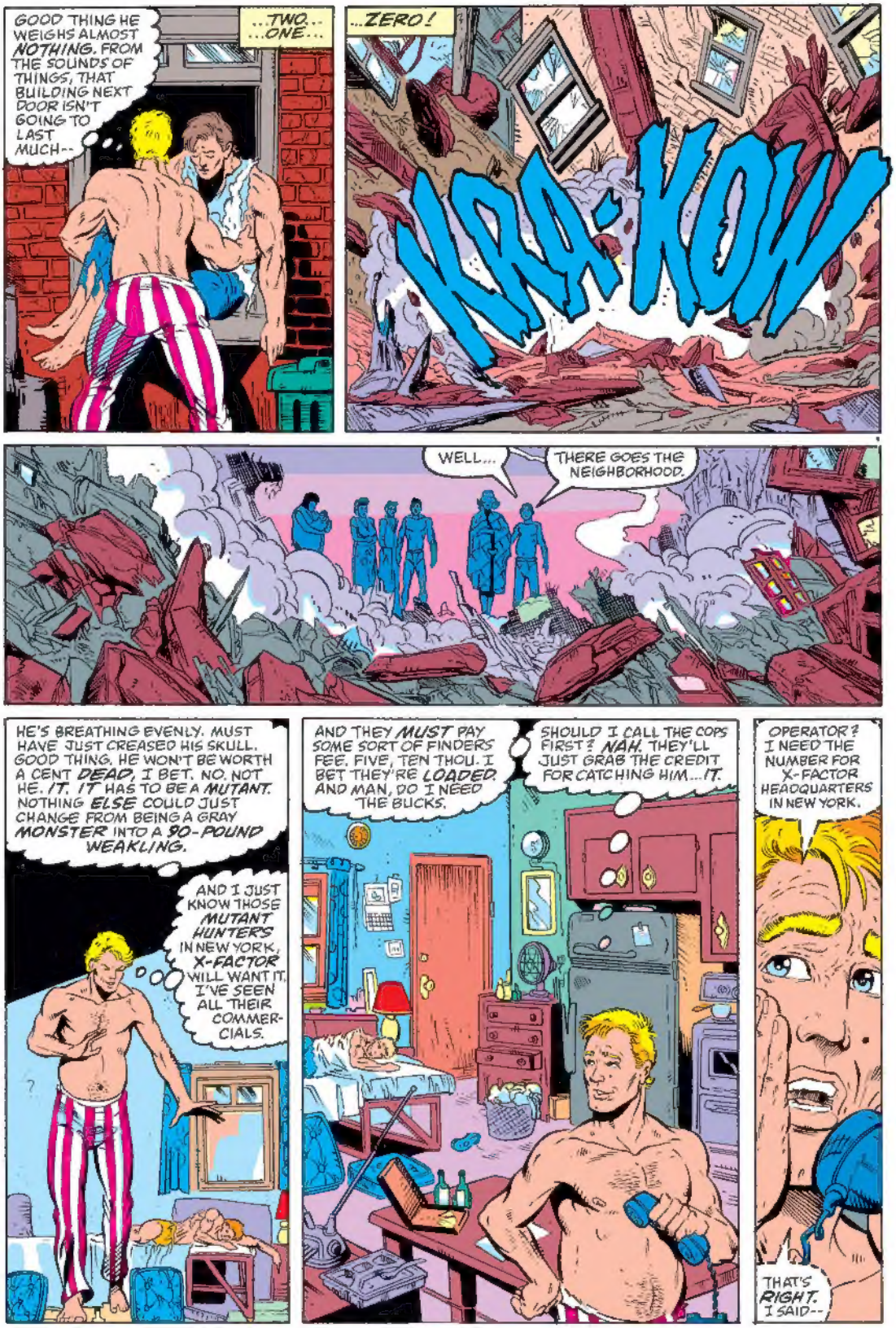
Stan Lee presents

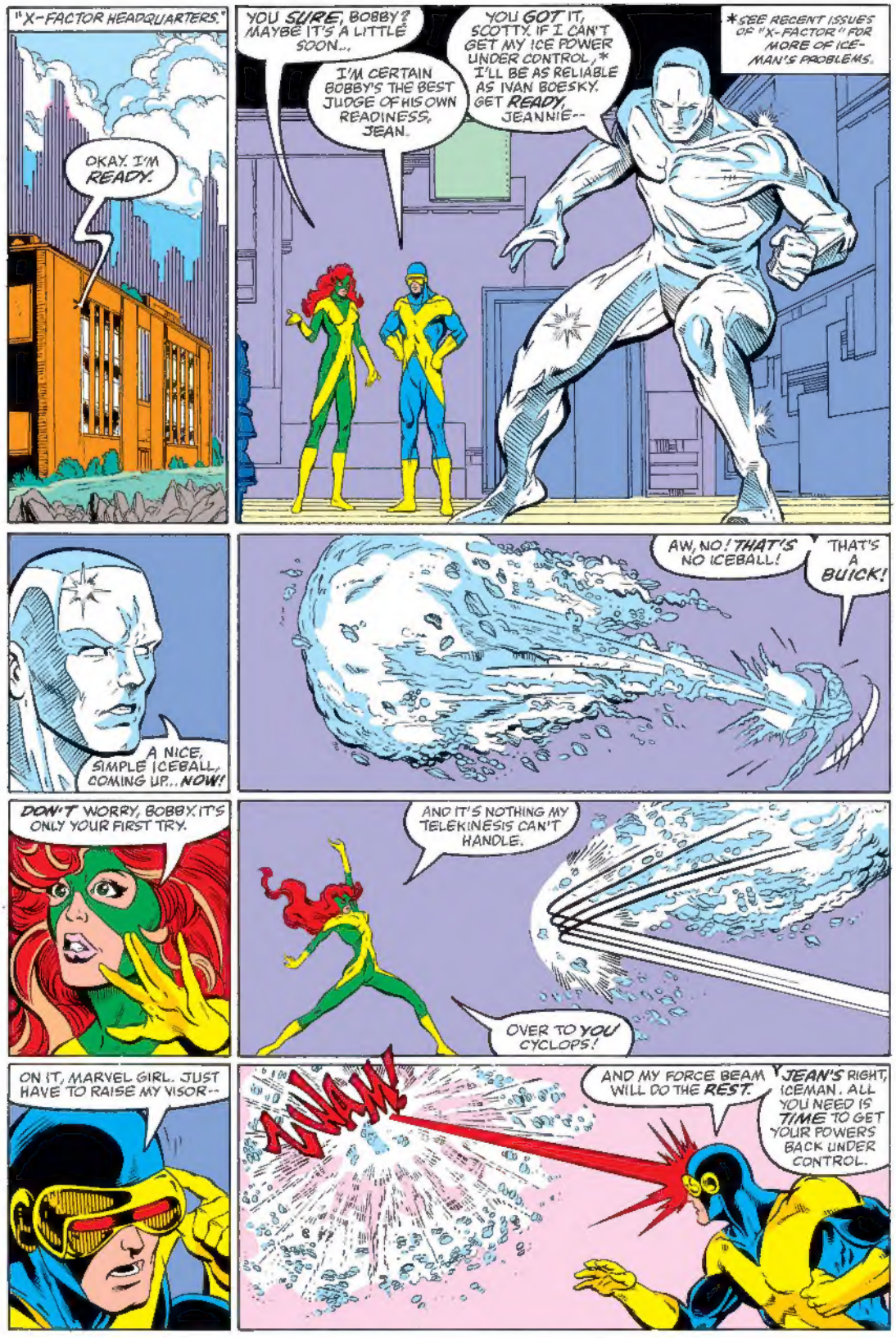
X-TREMES!

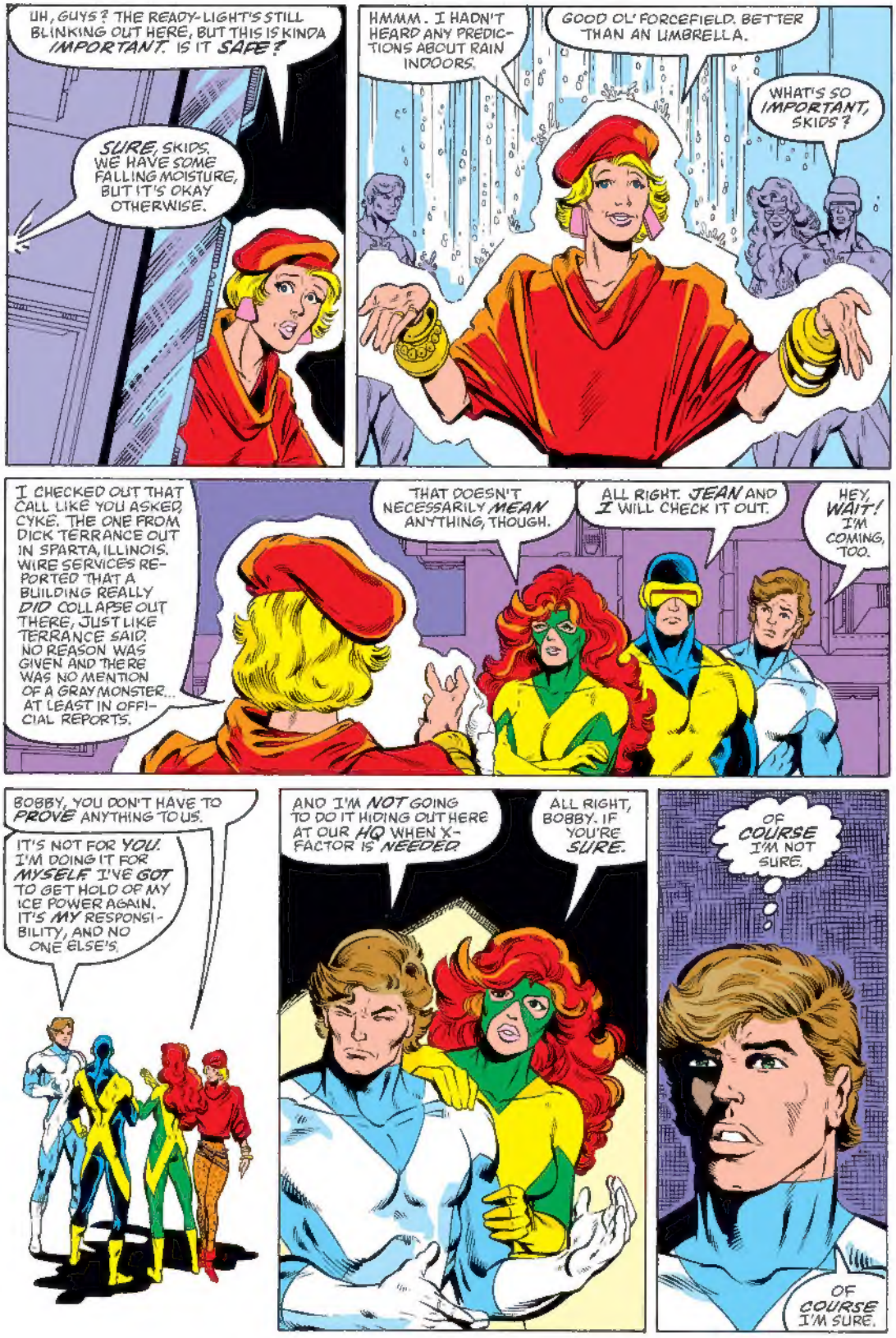
THIS IS THE HULK.
YES, HE'S GRAY. DON'T ASK.
AT THE MOMENT HE'S STANDING IN AN ALLEY BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS. IN HIS FURY OVER HIS IMMINENT CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE BANNER WITH THE SUNRISE, HE HAS JUST STRUCK ONE OF THEM.
IN SEVENTEEN SECONDS, THE BUILDING WILL COLLAPSE.
IT'S NOT FAIR!
WHAM!

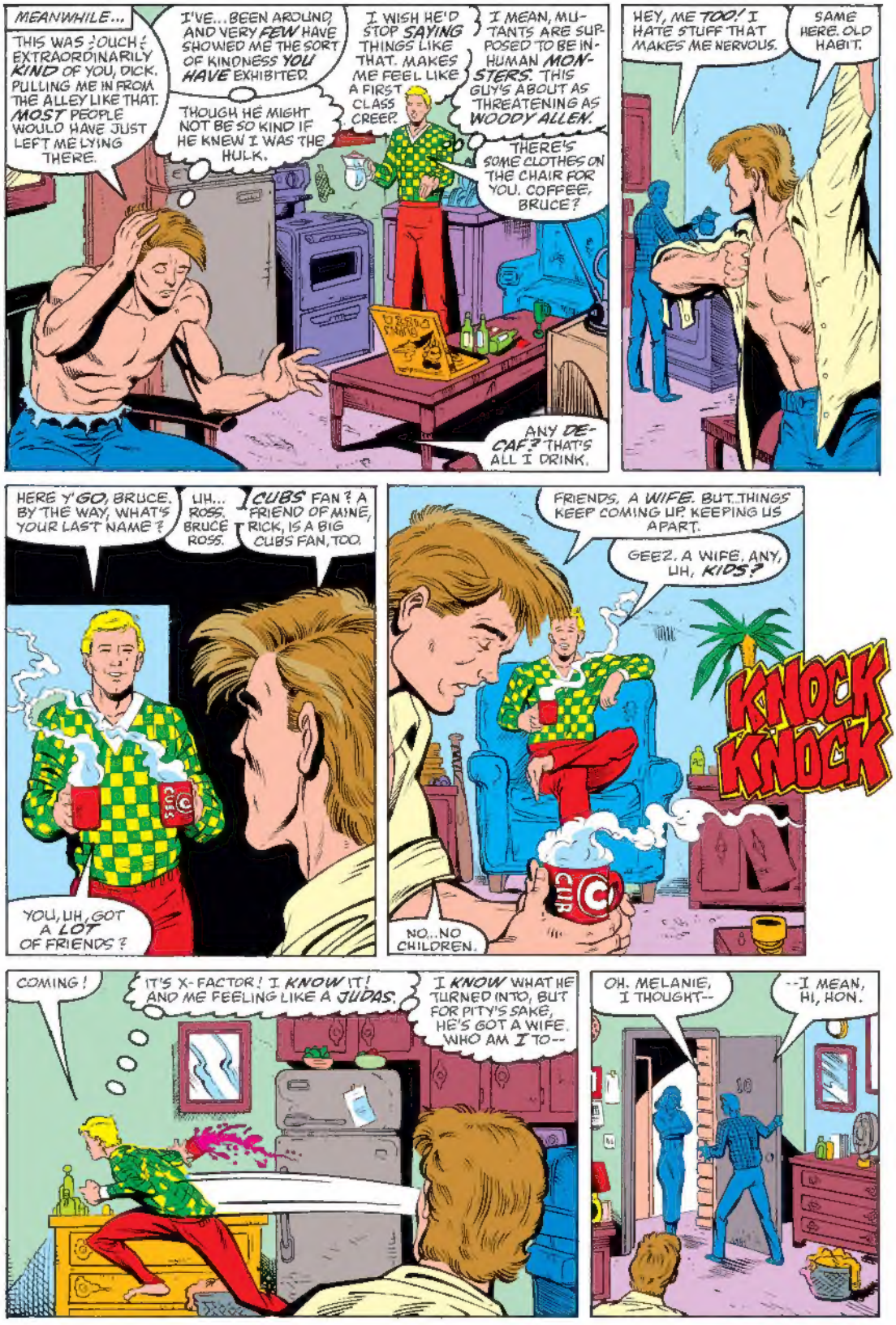
PETER	TODD	JIM	RICK	PETRA	BOB	JIM
DAVID	McFARLANE	SANDERS III	PARKER	SCOTESE	HARRAS	SHOOTER
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

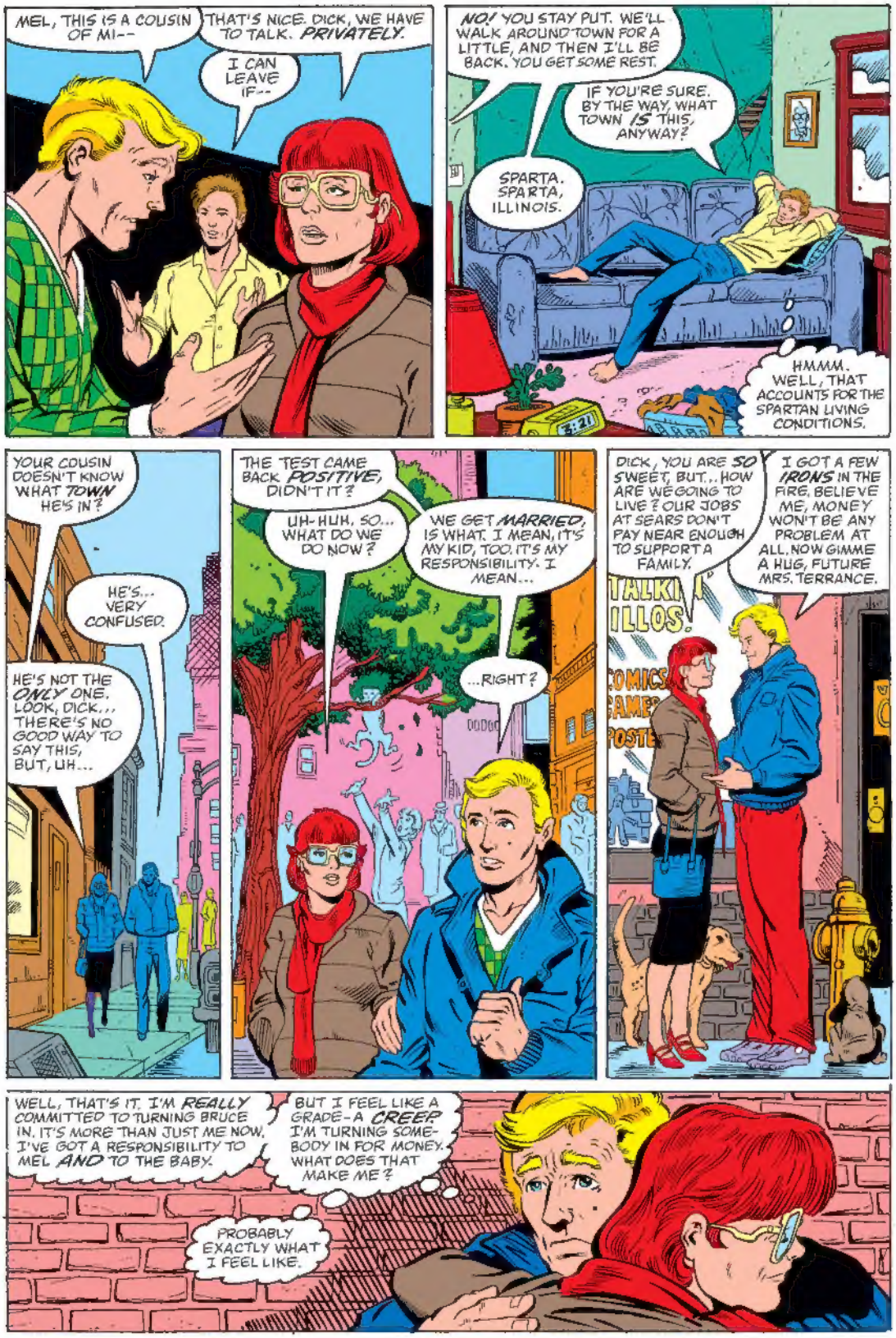

RRRUMMBLE
...SIXTEEN...
...FIFTEEN...
...FOURTEEN...
...THIRTEEN...
I SHOULD BE THE HULK ALL THE TIME! I'M THE STRONG ONE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO TURN INTO...
...TWELVE...
...INTO...
...ELEVEN...
BANNER.
I'M BRUCE BANNER AGAIN!
...TEN...
AND I'M NOT ABANDONED ON A MOUNTAINTOP OR IN A DESERT!
MY LUCK'S FINALLY CHANGING!
RRUMMBLE
...NINE...
...EIGHT...
IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE OR SOMETHING! RUN!
KRUNK!
I... DON'T BELIEVE IT.
...SEVEN...
THIS IS MY CHANCE. MY BIG CHANCE.
...SIX...
AND I'M NOT SCREWING IT UP.
...FIVE...
...FOUR...
...THREE...

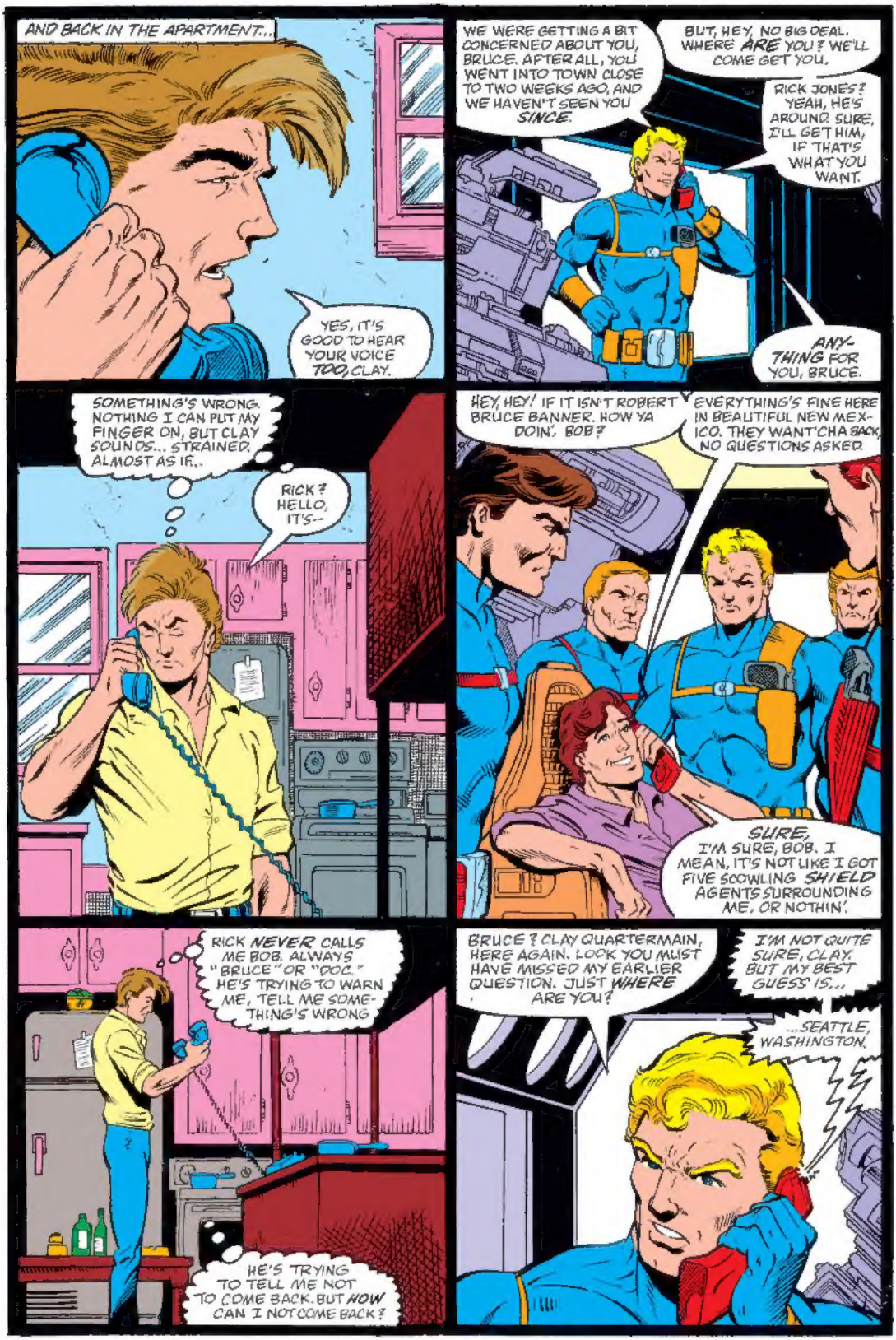

GOOD THING HE WEIGHS ALMOST NOTHING. FROM THE SOUNDS OF THINGS, THAT BUILDING NEXT DOOR ISN'T GOING TO LAST MUCH--
...TWO...
...ONE...
...ZERO!
KRA-KOW
WELL...
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HE'S BREATHING EVENLY. MUST HAVE JUST CREASED HIS SKULL. GOOD THING. HE WON'T BE WORTH A CENT DEAD, I BET. NO. NOT HE. IT. IT HAS TO BE A MUTANT. NOTHING ELSE COULD JUST CHANGE FROM BEING A GRAY MONSTER INTO A 90-POUND WEAKLING.
AND I JUST KNOW THOSE MUTANT HUNTERS IN NEW YORK, X-FACTOR WILL WANT IT. I'VE SEEN ALL THEIR COMMERCIALS.
AND THEY MUST PAY SOME SORT OF FINDERS FEE. FIVE, TEN THOU. I BET THEY'RE LOADED. AND MAN, DO I NEED THE BUCKS.
SHOULD I CALL THE COPS FIRST? NAH. THEY'LL JUST GRAB THE CREDIT FOR CATCHING HIM... IT.
OPERATOR? I NEED THE NUMBER FOR X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.
THAT'S RIGHT. I SAID--

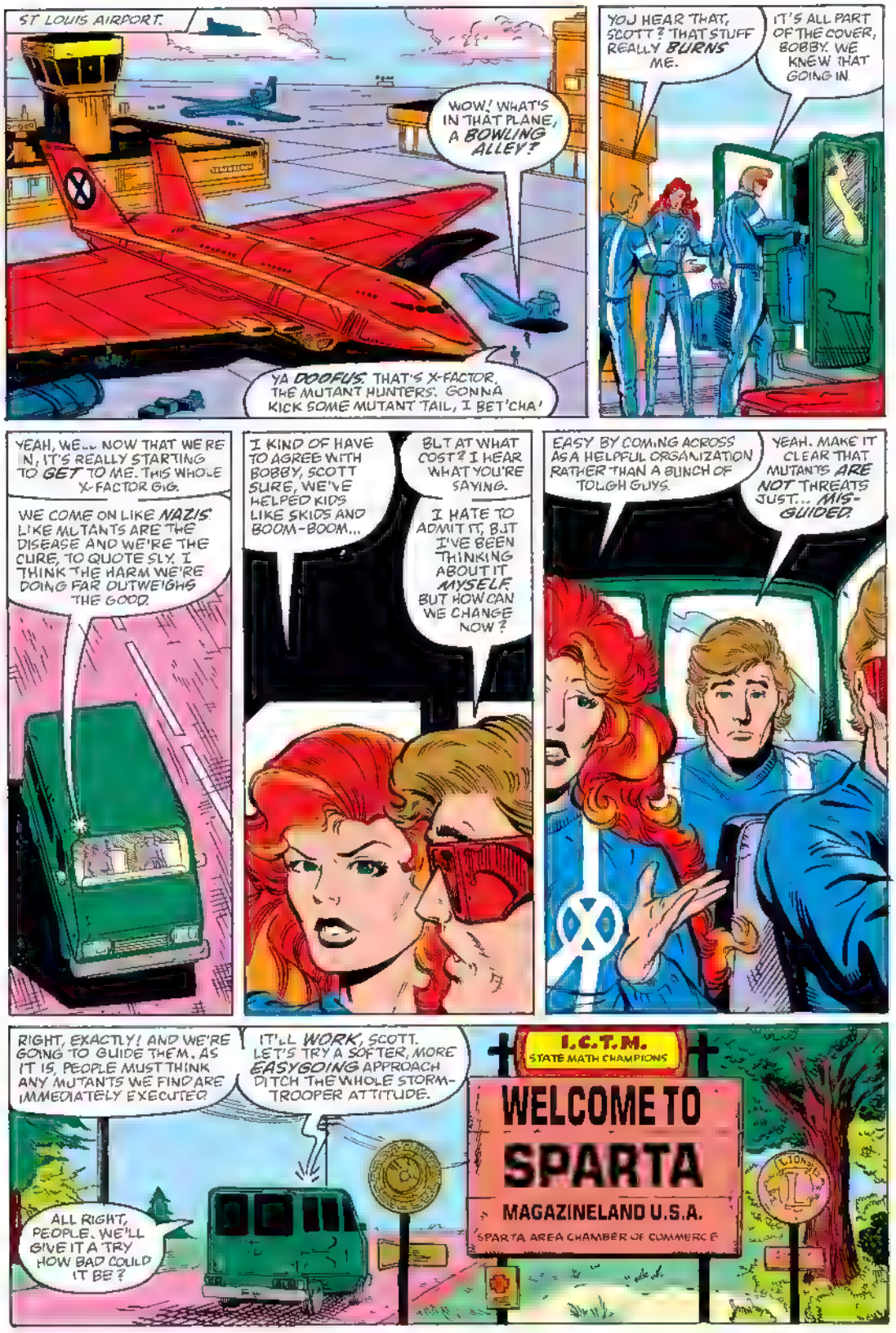

"X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS."
OKAY. I'M READY.
YOU SURE, BOBBY? MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE SOON...
I'M CERTAIN BOBBY'S THE BEST JUDGE OF HIS OWN READINESS, JEAN.
YOU GOT IT, SCOTTY. IF I CAN'T GET MY ICE POWER UNDER CONTROL,* I'LL BE AS RELIABLE AS IVAN BOESKY. GET READY, JEANNIE--
*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF "X-FACTOR" FOR MORE OF ICEMAN'S PROBLEMS.
A NICE, SIMPLE ICEBALL, COMING UP... NOW!
AW, NO! THAT'S NO ICEBALL!
THAT'S A BUICK!
DON'T WORRY, BOBBY. IT'S ONLY YOUR FIRST TRY.
AND IT'S NOTHING MY TELEKINESIS CAN'T HANDLE.
OVER TO YOU CYCLOPS!
ON IT, MARVEL GIRL. JUST HAVE TO RAISE MY VISOR--
KWAM!
AND MY FORCE BEAM WILL DO THE REST.
JEAN'S RIGHT, ICEMAN. ALL YOU NEED IS TIME TO GET YOUR POWERS BACK UNDER CONTROL.

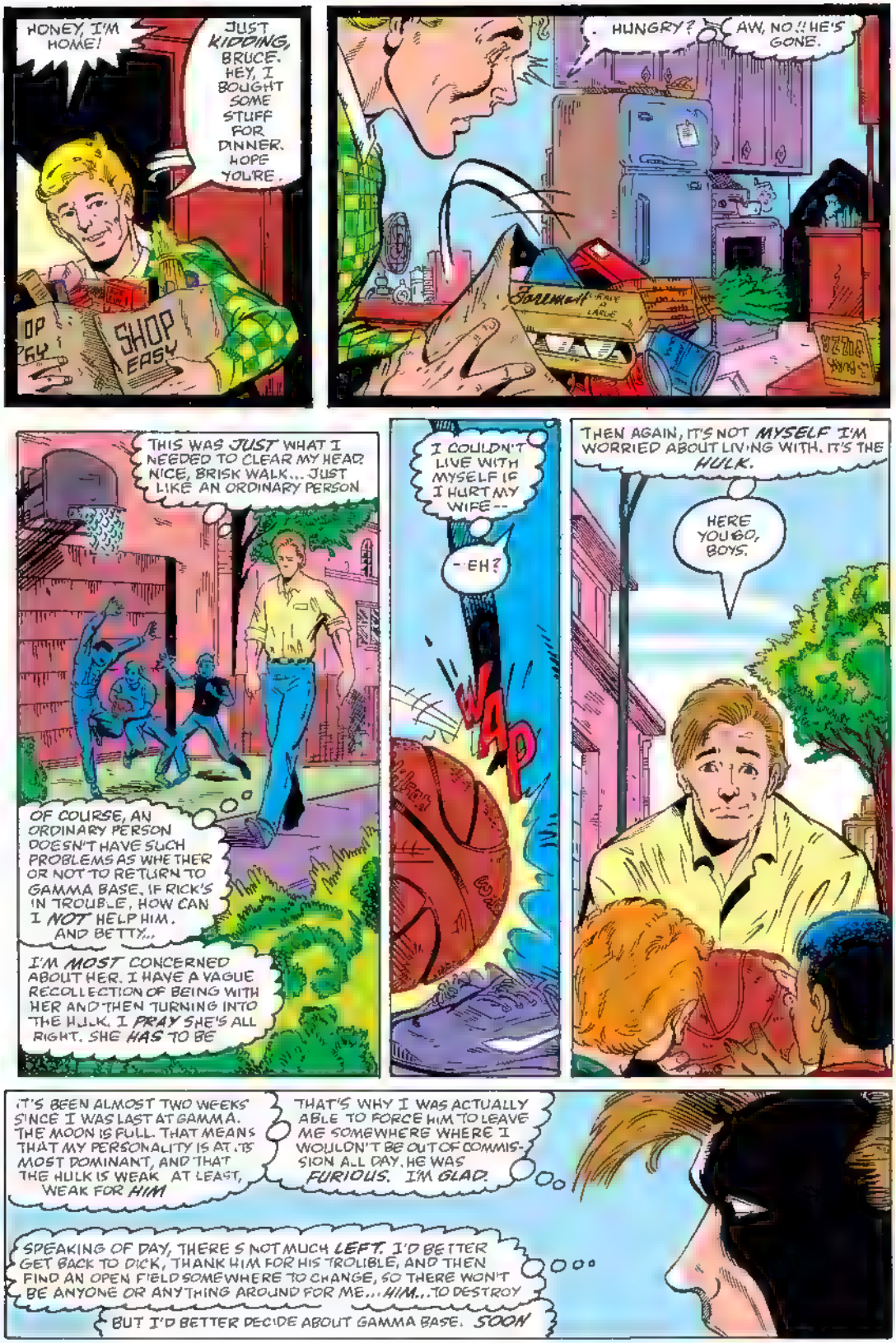

UH, GUYS? THE READY-LIGHT'S STILL BLINKING OUT HERE, BUT THIS IS KINDA IMPORTANT. IS IT SAFE?
SURE, SKIDS. WE HAVE SOME FALLING MOISTURE, BUT IT'S OKAY OTHERWISE.
HMMM. I HADN'T HEARD ANY PREDICTIONS ABOUT RAIN INDOORS.
GOOD OL' FORCEFIELD. BETTER THAN AN UMBRELLA.
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT, SKIDS?
I CHECKED OUT THAT CALL LIKE YOU ASKED, CYKE. THE ONE FROM DICK TERRANCE OUT IN SPARTA, ILLINOIS. WIRE SERVICES REPORTED THAT A BUILDING REALLY DID COLLAPSE OUT THERE, JUST LIKE TERRANCE SAID. NO REASON WAS GIVEN AND THERE WAS NO MENTION OF A GRAY MONSTER... AT LEAST IN OFFICIAL REPORTS.
THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ANYTHING, THOUGH.
ALL RIGHT. JEAN AND I WILL CHECK IT OUT.
HEY, WAIT! I'M COMING, TOO.
BOBBY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO US.
IT'S NOT FOR YOU. I'M DOING IT FOR MYSELF. I'VE GOT TO GET HOLD OF MY ICE POWER AGAIN. IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND NO ONE ELSE'S.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT HIDING OUT HERE AT OUR HQ WHEN X-FACTOR IS NEEDED.
ALL RIGHT, BOBBY. IF YOU'RE SURE.
OF COURSE I'M NOT SURE.
OF COURSE I'M SURE.

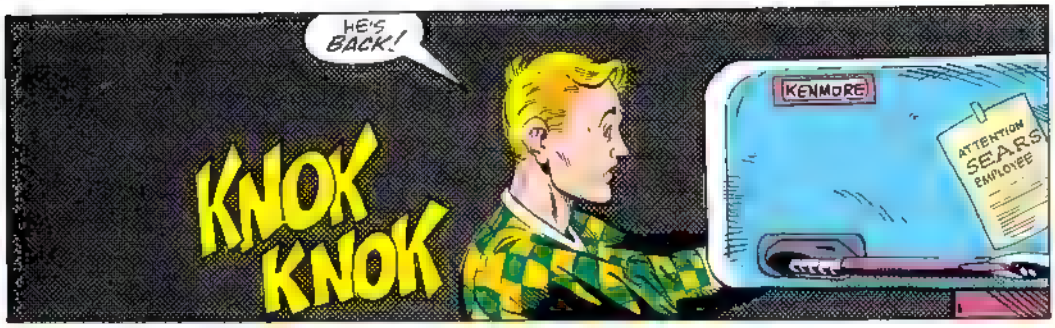

MEANWHILE...
THIS WAS ;OUCH; EXTRAORDINARILY KIND OF YOU, DICK. PULLING ME IN FROM THE ALLEY LIKE THAT. MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE JUST LEFT ME LYING THERE.
I'VE...BEEN AROUND, AND VERY FEW HAVE SHOWED ME THE SORT OF KINDNESS YOU HAVE EXHIBITED.
THOUGH HE MIGHT NOT BE SO KIND IF HE KNEW I WAS THE HULK.
I WISH HE'D STOP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT. MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A FIRST CLASS CREEP.
I MEAN, MUTANTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE INHUMAN MONSTERS. THIS GUY'S ABOUT AS THREATENING AS WOODY ALLEN.
THERE'S SOME CLOTHES ON THE CHAIR FOR YOU. COFFEE, BRUCE?
ANY DECAF? THAT'S ALL I DRINK.
HEY, ME TOO! I HATE STUFF THAT MAKES ME NERVOUS.
SAME HERE. OLD HABIT.
HERE Y'GO, BRUCE. BY THE WAY, WHAT'S YOUR LAST NAME?
UH... ROSS. BRUCE ROSS.
CUBS FAN? A FRIEND OF MINE, RICK, IS A BIG CUBS FAN, TOO.
YOU, UH, GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS?
FRIENDS, A WIFE. BUT...THINGS KEEP COMING UP. KEEPING US APART.
GEEZ. A WIFE, ANY, UH, KIDS?
KNOCK KNOCK
NO...NO CHILDREN.
COMING!
IT'S X-FACTOR! I KNOW IT! AND ME FEELING LIKE A JUDAS.
I KNOW WHAT HE TURNED INTO, BUT FOR PITY'S SAKE, HE'S GOT A WIFE. WHO AM I TO--
OH. MELANIE, I THOUGHT--
--I MEAN, HI, HON.

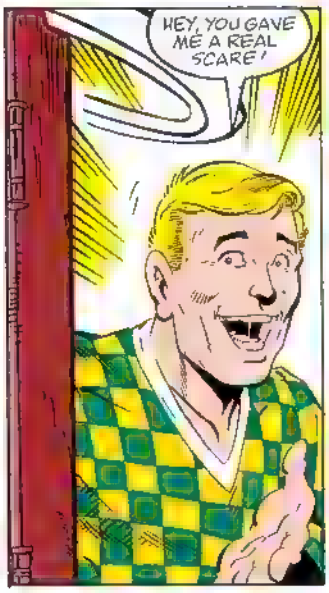

MEL, THIS IS A COUSIN OF MI--
THAT'S NICE. DICK, WE HAVE TO TALK. PRIVATELY.
I CAN LEAVE IF--
NO! YOU STAY PUT. WE'LL WALK AROUND TOWN FOR A LITTLE, AND THEN I'LL BE BACK. YOU GET SOME REST.
IF YOU'RE SURE. BY THE WAY, WHAT TOWN IS THIS, ANYWAY?
SPARTA. SPARTA, ILLINOIS.
HMMM. WELL, THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE SPARTAN LIVING CONDITIONS.
YOUR COUSIN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TOWN HE'S IN?
HE'S... VERY CONFUSED.
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. LOOK, DICK... THERE'S NO GOOD WAY TO SAY THIS, BUT, UH...
THE TEST CAME BACK. POSITIVE, DIDN'T IT?
UH-HUH. SO... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE GET MARRIED, IS WHAT. I MEAN, IT'S MY KID, TOO. IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY. I MEAN...
...RIGHT?
DICK, YOU ARE SO SWEET, BUT... HOW ARE WE GOING TO LIVE? OUR JOBS AT SEARS DON'T PAY NEAR ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A FAMILY.
I GOT A FEW IRONS IN THE FIRE. BELIEVE ME, MONEY WON'T BE ANY PROBLEM AT ALL. NOW GIMME A HUG, FUTURE MRS. TERRANCE.
WELL, THAT'S IT. I'M REALLY COMMITTED TO TURNING BRUCE IN. IT'S MORE THAN JUST ME NOW. I'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO MEL AND TO THE BABY.
BUT I FEEL LIKE A GRADE-A CREEP I'M TURNING SOMEBODY IN FOR MONEY. WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?
PROBABLY EXACTLY WHAT I FEEL LIKE.

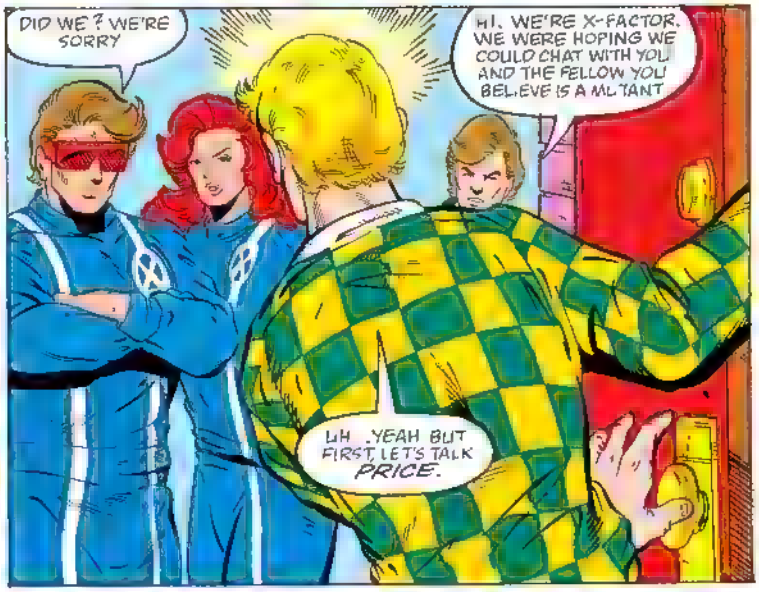

AND BACK IN THE APARTMENT...
YES, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE TOO, CLAY.
WE WERE GETTING A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, BRUCE. AFTER ALL, YOU WENT INTO TOWN CLOSE TO TWO WEEKS AGO, AND WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE.
BUT, HEY, NO BIG DEAL. WHERE ARE YOU? WE'LL COME GET YOU.
RICK JONES? YEAH, HE'S AROUND. SURE, I'LL GET HIM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
ANY-THING FOR YOU, BRUCE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG. NOTHING I CAN PUT MY FINGER ON, BUT CLAY SOUNDS... STRAINED. ALMOST AS IF..
RICK? HELLO, IT'S--
HEY, HEY! IF IT ISN'T ROBERT BRUCE BANNER. HOW YA DOIN', BOB?
EVERYTHING'S FINE HERE IN BEAUTIFUL NEW MEX-ICO. THEY WANT'CHA BACK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
SURE, I'M SURE, BOB. I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT FIVE SCOWLING SHIELD AGENTS SURROUNDING ME, OR NOTHIN'.
RICK NEVER CALLS ME BOB. ALWAYS "BRUCE" OR "DOC." HE'S TRYING TO WARN ME, TELL ME SOME-THING'S WRONG
HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME NOT TO COME BACK. BUT HOW CAN I NOT COME BACK?
BRUCE? CLAY QUARTERMAIN, HERE AGAIN. LOOK, YOU MUST HAVE MISSED MY EARLIER QUESTION. JUST WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE, CLAY. BUT MY BEST GUESS IS...
...SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.


ST LOUIS AIRPORT.
WOW! WHAT'S IN THAT PLANE, A BOWLING ALLEY?
YA DOOFUS. THAT'S X-FACTOR, THE MUTANT HUNTERS. GONNA KICK SOME MUTANT TAIL, I BET'CHA!
YOU HEAR THAT, SCOTT? THAT STUFF REALLY BURNS ME.
IT'S ALL PART OF THE COVER, BOBBY. WE KNEW THAT GOING IN.
YEAH, WE... NOW THAT WE'RE IN, IT'S REALLY STARTING TO GET TO ME. THIS WHOLE X-FACTOR GIG.
WE COME ON LIKE NAZIS. LIKE MUTANTS ARE THE DISEASE AND WE'RE THE CURE, TO QUOTE SLY. I THINK THE HARM WE'RE DOING FAR OUTWEIGHS THE GOOD.
I KIND OF HAVE TO AGREE WITH BOBBY, SCOTT. SURE, WE'VE HELPED KIDS LIKE SKIDS AND BOOM-BOOM...
BUT AT WHAT COST? I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT MYSELF. BUT HOW CAN WE CHANGE NOW?
EASY BY COMING ACROSS AS A HELPFUL ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN A BUNCH OF TOUGH GUYS.
YEAH. MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MUTANTS ARE NOT THREATS JUST... MIS-GUIDED.
RIGHT, EXACTLY! AND WE'RE GOING TO GUIDE THEM. AS IT IS, PEOPLE MUST THINK ANY MUTANTS WE FIND ARE IMMEDIATELY EXECUTED.
IT'LL WORK, SCOTT. LET'S TRY A SOFTER, MORE EASYGOING APPROACH. DITCH THE WHOLE STORM-TROOPER ATTITUDE.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE. WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY. HOW BAD COULD IT BE?
I.C.T.M.
STATE MATH CHAMPIONS
WELCOME TO
SPARTA
MAGAZINELAND U.S.A.
SPARTA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


HONEY, I'M HOME!
JUST KIDDING, BRUCE. HEY, I BOUGHT SOME STUFF FOR DINNER. HOPE YOU'RE,
SHOP EASY
HUNGRY?
AW, NO!! HE'S GONE.
THIS WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO CLEAR MY HEAD. NICE, BRISK WALK... JUST LIKE AN ORDINARY PERSON
OF COURSE, AN ORDINARY PERSON DOESN'T HAVE SUCH PROBLEMS AS WHETHER OR NOT TO RETURN TO GAMMA BASE. IF RICK'S IN TROUBLE, HOW CAN I NOT HELP HIM. AND BETTY...
I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT HER. I HAVE A VAGUE RECOLLECTION OF BEING WITH HER AND THEN TURNING INTO THE H.U.K. I PRAY SHE'S ALL RIGHT. SHE HAS TO BE
I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I HURT MY WIFE--
--EH?
WAP
THEN AGAIN, IT'S NOT MYSELF I'M WORRIED ABOUT LIVING WITH. IT'S THE HULK.
HERE YOU GO, BOYS.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO WEEKS SINCE I WAS LAST AT GAMMA. THE MOON IS FULL. THAT MEANS THAT MY PERSONALITY IS AT ITS MOST DOMINANT, AND THAT THE HULK IS WEAK. AT LEAST, WEAK FOR HIM
THAT'S WHY I WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO FORCE HIM TO LEAVE ME SOMEWHERE WHERE I WOULDN'T BE OUT OF COMMISSION ALL DAY. HE WAS FURIOUS. I'M GLAD.
SPEAKING OF DAY, THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT. I'D BETTER GET BACK TO DICK, THANK HIM FOR HIS TROUBLE, AND THEN FIND AN OPEN FIELD SOMEWHERE TO CHANGE, SO THERE WON'T BE ANYONE OR ANYTHING AROUND FOR ME... HIM... TO DESTROY
BUT I'D BETTER DECIDE ABOUT GAMMA BASE. SOON


HE'S BACK!
KNOK KNOK
KENMORE
ATTENTION SEARS EMPLOYEE

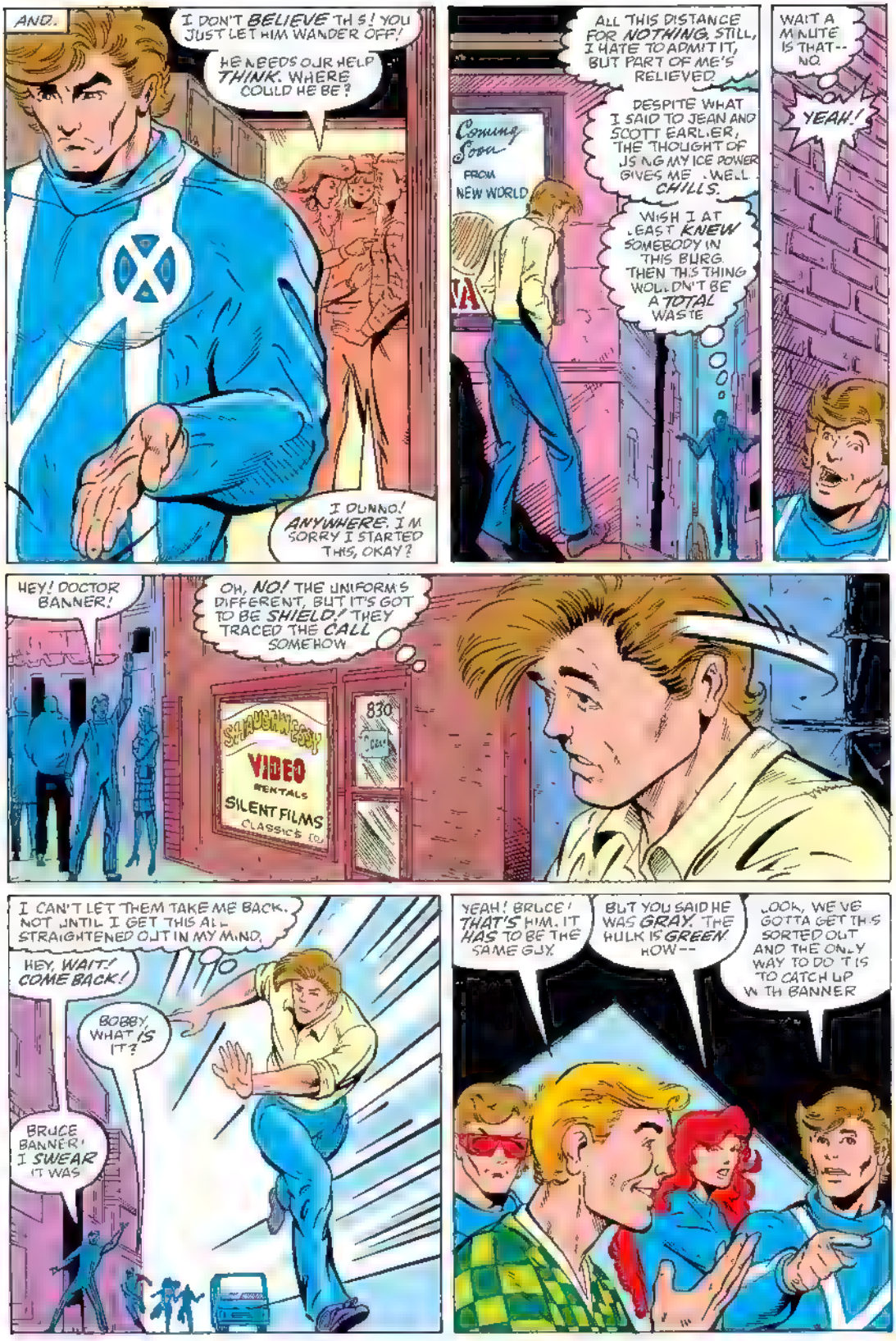

HEY, YOU GAVE ME A REAL SCARE!

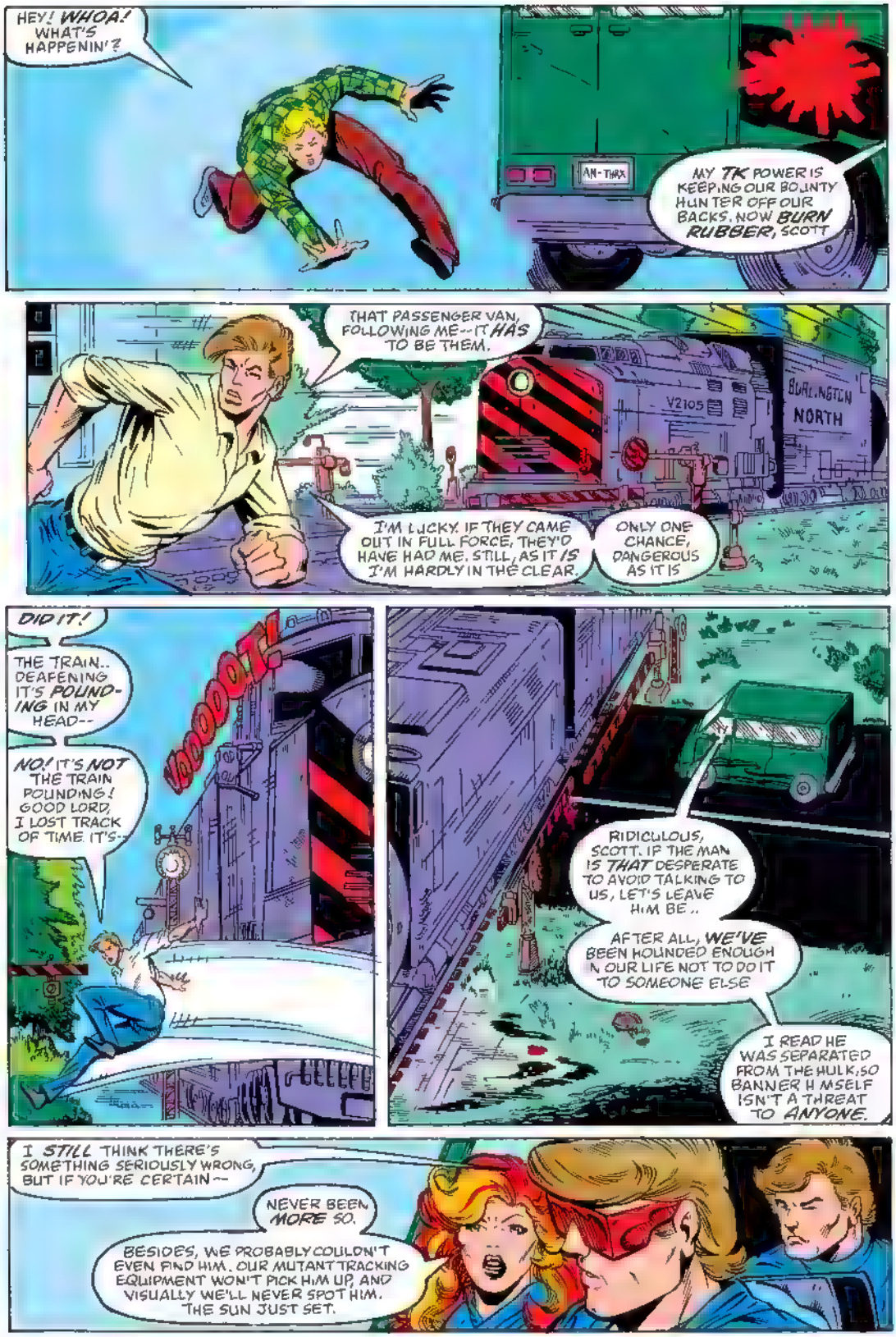

DID WE? WE'RE SORRY
HI. WE'RE X-FACTOR. WE WERE HOPING WE COULD CHAT WITH YOU AND THE FELLOW YOU BELIEVE IS A MUTANT
UH...YEAH BUT FIRST, LET'S TALK PRICE.

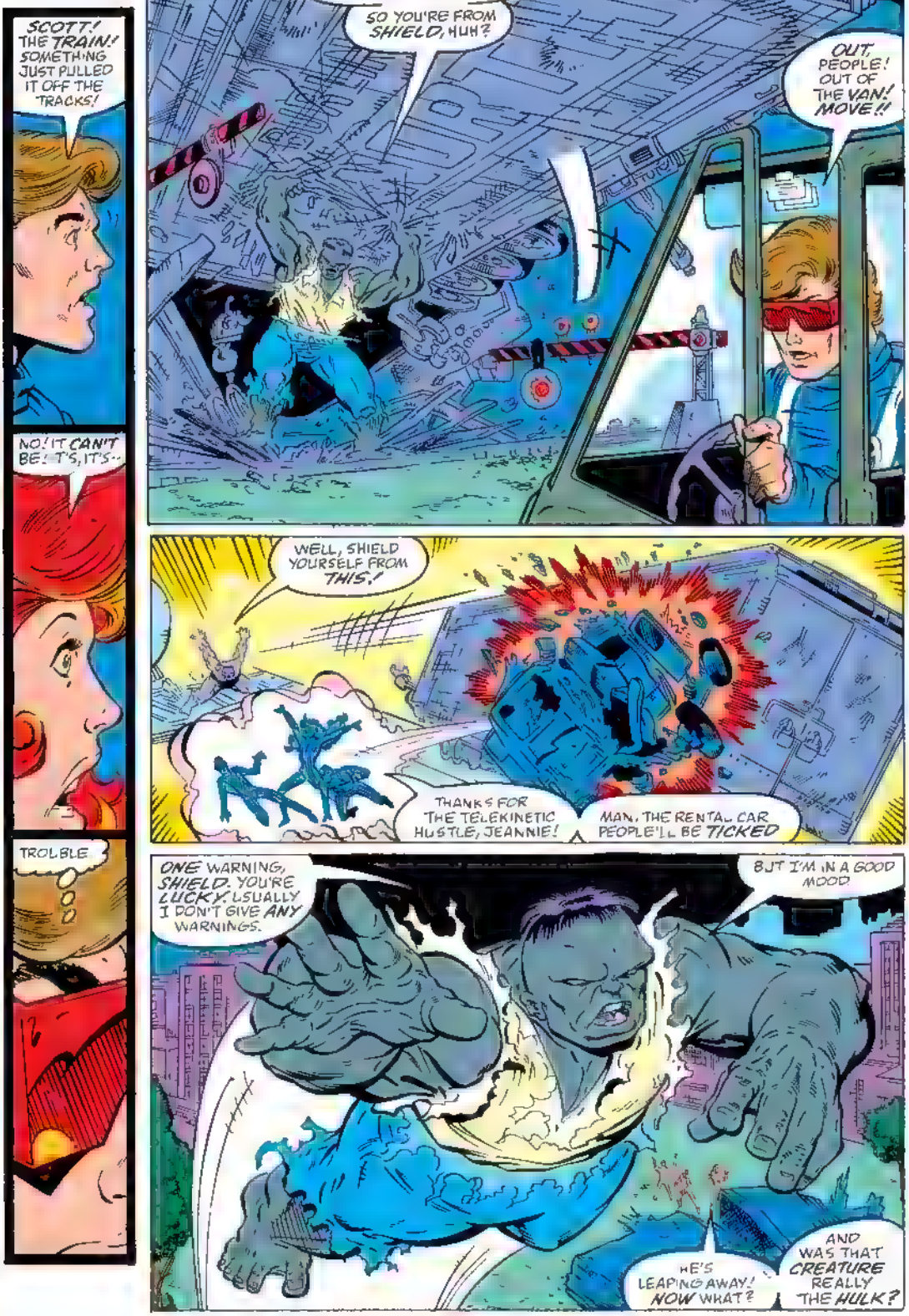
I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. TERRANCE
YOU KNOW. PRICE. MY FINDER'S FEE. MY CUT

OH, FOR PITY'S
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE HERE, MR TERRANCE. YOU CAN'T BARTER FOR SOMEONE'S LIFE.
AW, MAN. WHY CAN'T WE BE'D TOH DIGGERS OR SOMETHING?
IF THERE'S A MUTANT IN THERE, HE'S PROBABLY SCARED, FRIGHTENED. WE WANT TO HELP HIM, NOT "BUY" HIM. HAVE SOME HUMAN COMPASSION, MR TERRANCE.

HEY I GOT COMPASSION BUT, UH THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?


AND..
I DON'T BELIEVE TH S! YOU JUST LET HIM WANDER OFF!
HE NEEDS OUR HELP THINK. WHERE COULD HE BE?
I DUNNO! ANYWHERE. I M SORRY I STARTED THIS, OKAY?
ALL THIS DISTANCE FOR NOTHING. STILL, I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT PART OF ME'S RELIEVED
DESPITE WHAT I SAID TO JEAN AND SCOTT EARLIER, THE THOUGHT OF JS NG MY ICE POWER GIVES ME . WELL CHILLS.
WISH I AT LEAST KNEW SOMEBODY IN THIS BURG. THEN TH S THING WOLLDN'T BE A TOTAL WASTE
Coming Soon FROM NEW WORLD
WAIT A M NUTE IS THAT-- NO
YEAH!
HEY! DOCTOR BANNER!
OH, NO! THE UNIFORM S DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE SHIELD! THEY TRACED THE CALL SOMEHOW
VIDEO RENTALS SILENT FILMS CLASSICS
830
I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME BACK. NOT UNTIL I GET THIS ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT IN MY MIND.
HEY, WAIT! COME BACK!
BOBBY, WHAT IS IT?
BRUCE BANNER! I SWEAR IT WAS
YEAH! BRUCE! THAT'S HIM. IT HAS TO BE THE SAME GUY.
BUT YOU SAID HE WAS GRAY. THE HULK IS GREEN NOW--
LOOK, WE VE GOTTA GET TH S SORTED OUT AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO T IS TO CATCH UP W TH BANNER

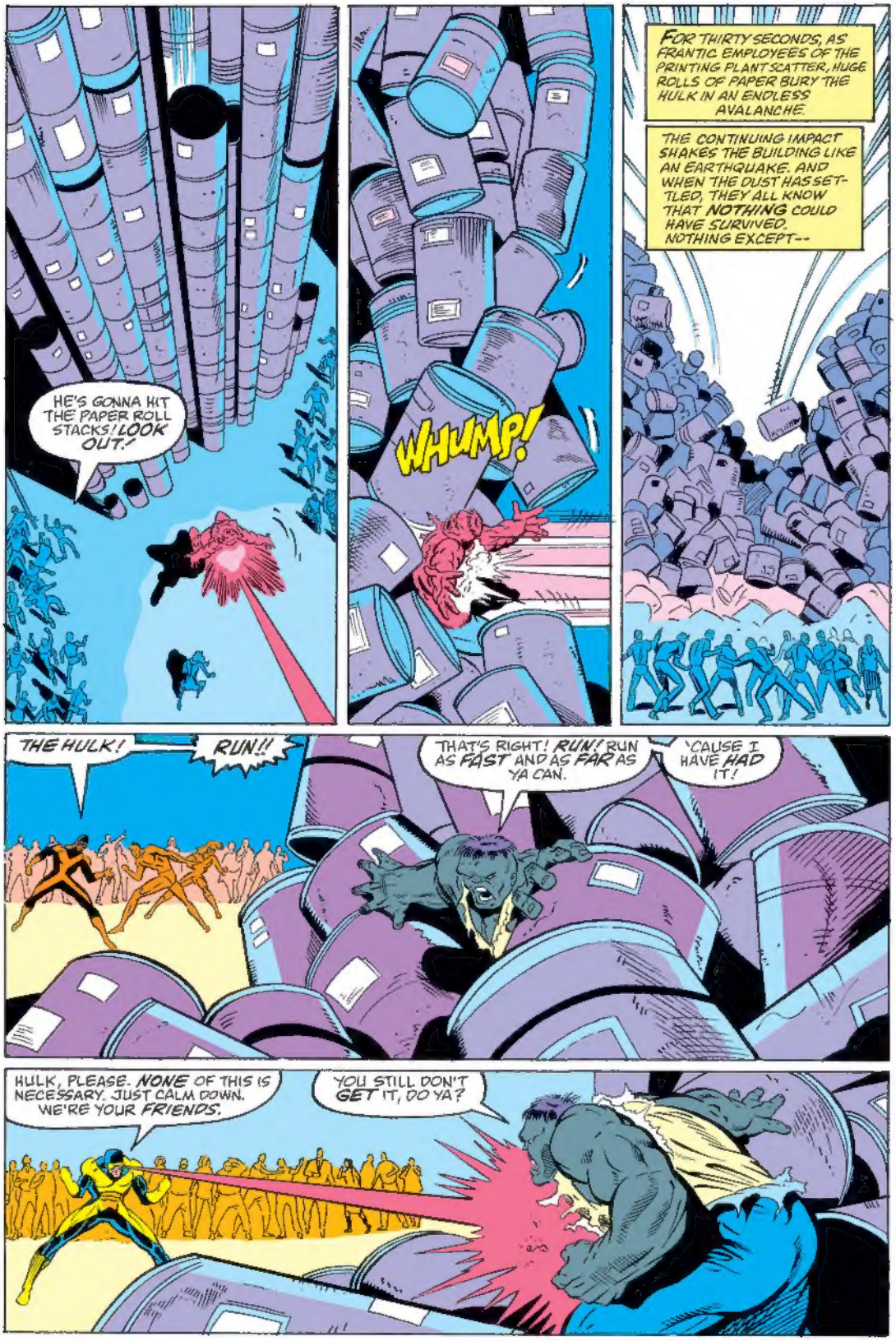

HEY! WHOA! WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?
AN-THRX
MY TK POWER IS KEEPING OUR BOUNTY HUNTER OFF OUR BACKS. NOW BURN RUBBER, SCOTT
THAT PASSENGER VAN, FOLLOWING ME--IT HAS TO BE THEM.
V2105
BURLINGTON NORTH
I'M LUCKY IF THEY CAME OUT IN FULL FORCE, THEY'D HAVE HAD ME. STILL, AS IT IS I'M HARDLY IN THE CLEAR.
ONLY ONE CHANCE, DANGEROUS AS IT IS
DID IT!
THE TRAIN.. DEAFENING IT'S POUND-ING IN MY HEAD--
NO! IT'S NOT THE TRAIN POUNDING! GOOD LORD, I LOST TRACK OF TIME IT'S--
WOOOT!
RIDICULOUS, SCOTT. IF THE MAN IS THAT DESPERATE TO AVOID TALKING TO US, LET'S LEAVE HIM BE..
AFTER ALL, WE'VE BEEN HOUNDED ENOUGH IN OUR LIFE NOT TO DO IT TO SOMEONE ELSE
I READ HE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE HULK, SO BANNER HIMSELF ISN'T A THREAT TO ANYONE.
I STILL THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG, BUT IF YOU'RE CERTAIN--
NEVER BEEN MORE SO.
BESIDES, WE PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN FIND HIM. OUR MUTANT TRACKING EQUIPMENT WON'T PICK HIM UP, AND VISUALLY WE'LL NEVER SPOT HIM. THE SUN JUST SET.

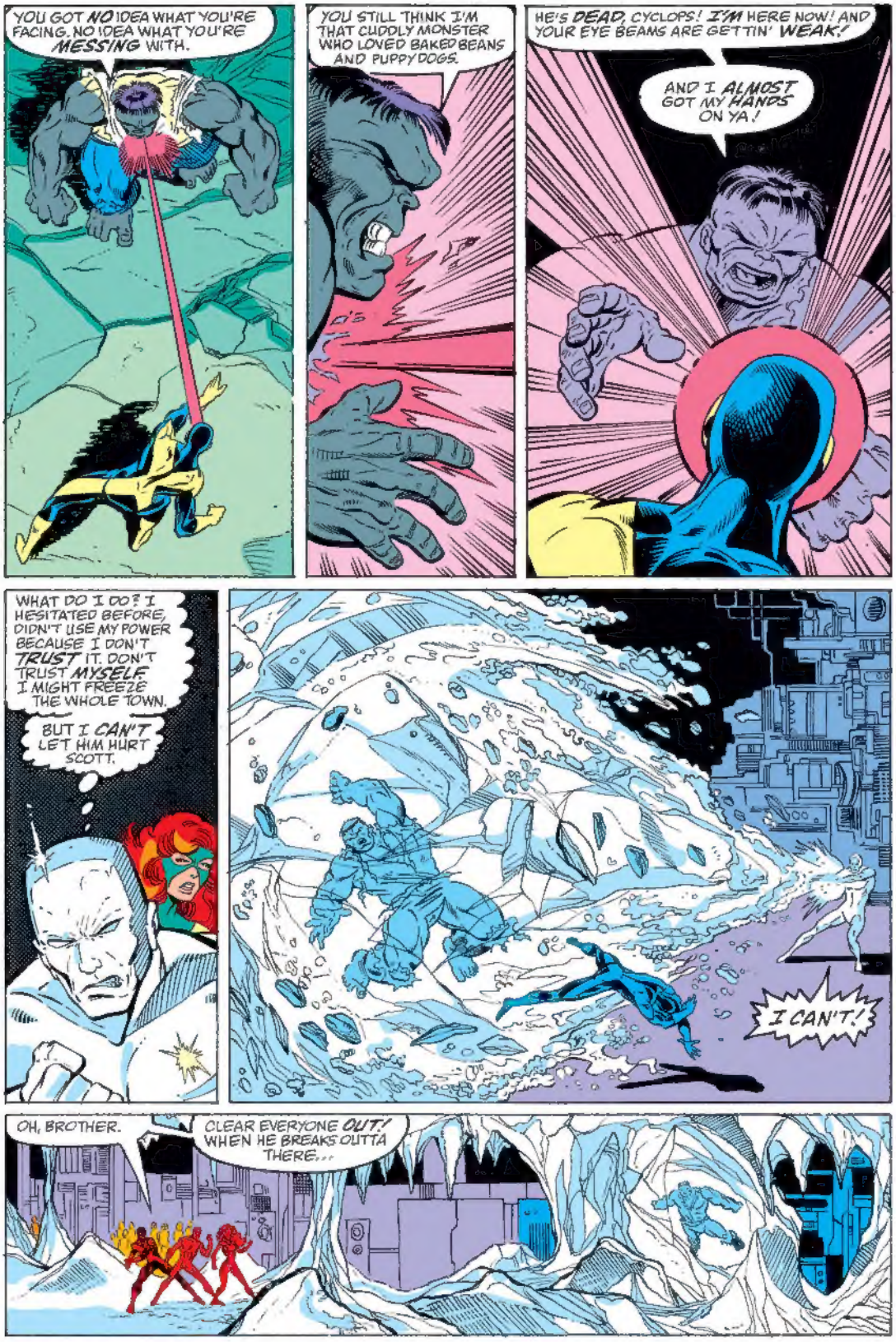

SCOTT! THE TRAIN! SOMETHING JUST PULLED IT OFF THE TRACKS!
NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT'S, IT'S--
TROUBLE
BIG TROUBLE, YA MORONS! THE BIGGEST!
SO YOU'RE FROM SHIELD, HUH?
OUT, PEOPLE! OUT OF THE VAN! MOVE!!
WELL, SHIELD YOURSELF FROM THIS!
THANKS FOR THE TELEKINETIC HUSTLE, JEANNIE!
MAN, THE RENTAL CAR PEOPLE'LL BE TICKED
ONE WARNING, SHIELD. YOU'RE LUCKY. USUALLY I DON'T GIVE ANY WARNINGS.
BUT I'M IN A GOOD MOOD
HE'S LEAPING AWAY! NOW WHAT?
AND WAS THAT CREATURE REALLY THE HULK?

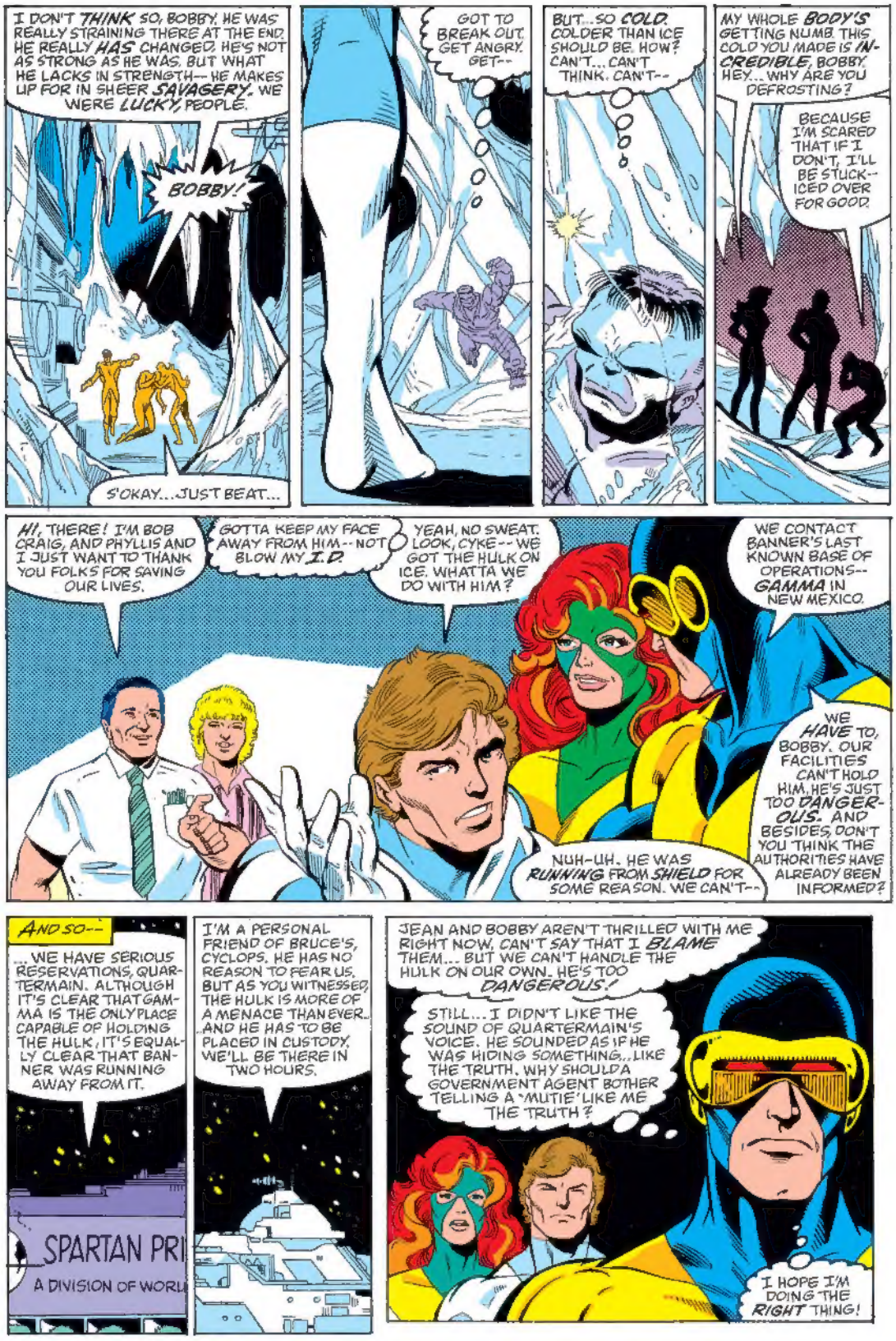
I'M NOT SURE, BUT WHATEVER HE IS.
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM.
ZAAAAP!
HEY!
SPARTAN PRINTING COM
A DIVISION OF WORLD COLOR PRESS
GREAT. WE TRY GOING IN AS A LAID-BACK X-FACTOR AND WIND UP HAVING TO FALL BACK ON THE X-TERMINATORS B T
NO CHOICE, BOBBY. WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THAT BUILDING BEFORE HE HURTS SOMEONE
WELL, WELL, WELL BANNER WAS WRONG. YOU'RE NOT S.H.I.E.L.D. YOU'RE THE X-MEN!
WE'RE NOT THE X-MEN ANYMORE. WE'RE X-TERMI-NATORS, WE ALL CHANGE. DON'T WE, HULK?
OH, YEAH X-MEN X-TERMI-NATORS WELL, IT REALLY DON'T MATTER 'CAUSE NOW YOU'LL BE
PUNCH

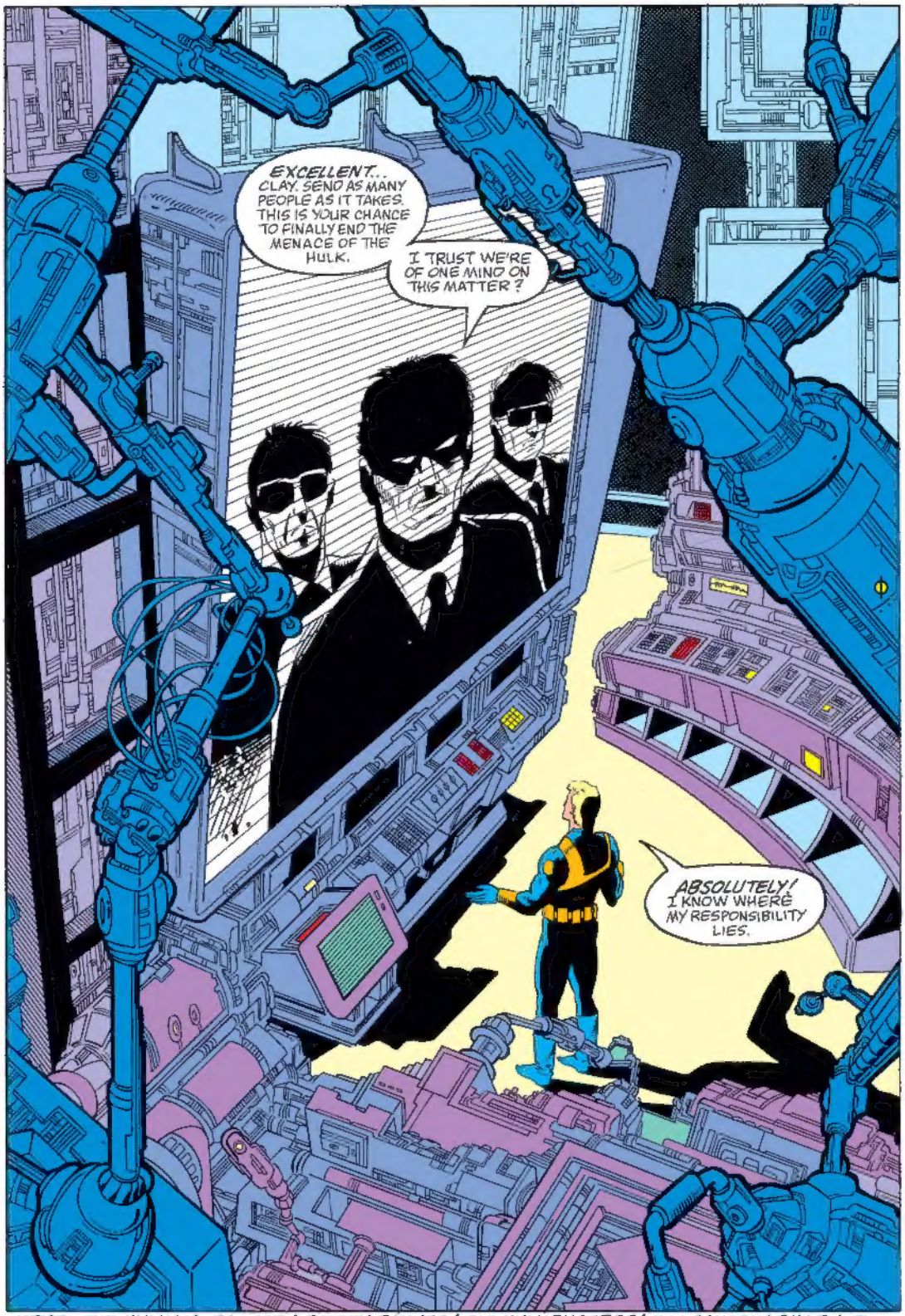
X-TINCT!
PUNCH
ICEMAN! MARVEL GIRL! I'LL KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE. OUT-FLANK HIM.
WE HAVE TO CONTAIN HIM.
ZAK
CONTAIN... ME.
HAH!
HE'S THROWING MACH NERY AROUND LIKE MISSILES! FALL BACK!
ICEMAN! BUY US SOME TIME
DON'T WORRY AN ICEWALL SHOULD--
HOLY COW! IT'S TWICE AS THICK AS USUAL. WHEN'LL I GET IT UNDER CONTROL?
DON'T KNOCK IT, ICEMAN
I KNOW, BUT-- UH-OH THE GROUND'S TREMBLING. WH--
IT'S A ROLLER FROM A PRINTING PRESS! SCATTER!
I CAN'T STOP IT, BUT I CAN SLOW IT DOWN SOME.
THIS IS INSANE. HE'S ABSOLUTELY VICIOUS.
KRAK

MARVEL GIRL! YOU OKAY?
NOSEBLEED HAPPENS WHEN I PUSH MYSELF NO PROBLEM
WHOA! CAUGHT HIM IN MID-LEAP! LUCKY.
BUT OUR LUCK WON'T LAST
WHERE'D HE GO?
DON'T SAY WE SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR HIM, CYKE. I'M NOT READY FOR THAT.
YOU READY FOR THIS?
C'MON. MAKE YOUR MOVE ALREADY. I DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT
THOOOM!
BAH. SHOULD'VE FIGURED YOU'D FREEZE.
BUT YOU, GIRLIE— YOU'RE THE DANGEROUS ONE. YOU GOT A POWER I CAN'T SEE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE. SO LET'S FIND OUT.
THAT'S ALL YOU DO? WAVE YOUR HANDS AND SKRUNCH YOUR FACE?
I DON'T "WISH" AWAY, USELESS.
CYCLOPS!! MY TELEKINESIS WON'T HOLD HIM BACK ANY LONGER!
CAN'T FIRE RIGHT AT HIM WITHOUT HITTING JEAN. HAVE TO AIM THIS JUST RIGHT
ZWAK
ZWAK
ZWAK


HE'S GONNA HIT THE PAPER ROLL STACKS! LOOK OUT!
WHUMP!
FOR THIRTY SECONDS, AS FRANTIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PRINTING PLANT SCATTER, HUGE ROLLS OF PAPER BURY THE HULK IN AN ENDLESS AVALANCHE.
THE CONTINUING IMPACT SHAKES THE BUILDING LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE. AND WHEN THE DUST HAS SETTLED, THEY ALL KNOW THAT NOTHING COULD HAVE SURVIVED. NOTHING EXCEPT--
THE HULK!
RUN!!
THAT'S RIGHT! RUN! RUN AS FAST AND AS FAR AS YA CAN.
'CAUSE I HAVE HAD IT!
HULK, PLEASE. NONE OF THIS IS NECESSARY. JUST CALM DOWN. WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YA?


YOU GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE FACING. NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE MESSING WITH.
YOU STILL THINK I'M THAT CUDDLY MONSTER WHO LOVED BAKED BEANS AND PUPPY DOGS.
HE'S DEAD, CYCLOPS! I'M HERE NOW! AND YOUR EYE BEAMS ARE GETTIN' WEAK!
AND I ALMOST GOT MY HANDS ON YA!
WHAT DO I DO? I HESITATED BEFORE, DIDN'T USE MY POWER BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST IT. DON'T TRUST MYSELF. I MIGHT FREEZE THE WHOLE TOWN.
BUT I CAN'T LET HIM HURT SCOTT.
I CAN'T!
OH, BROTHER.
CLEAR EVERYONE OUT! WHEN HE BREAKS OUTTA THERE...


I DON'T THINK SO, BOBBY. HE WAS REALLY STRAINING THERE AT THE END. HE REALLY HAS CHANGED. HE'S NOT AS STRONG AS HE WAS. BUT WHAT HE LACKS IN STRENGTH— HE MAKES UP FOR IN SHEER SAVAGERY. WE WERE LUCKY, PEOPLE.
BOBBY!
S'OKAY...JUST BEAT...
GOT TO BREAK OUT. GET ANGRY. GET--
BUT...SO COLD. COLDER THAN ICE SHOULD BE. HOW? CAN'T... CAN'T THINK. CAN'T--
MY WHOLE BODY'S GETTING NUMB. THIS COLD YOU MADE IS IN-CREDIBLE, BOBBY. HEY... WHY ARE YOU DEFROSTING?
BECAUSE I'M SCARED THAT IF I DON'T, I'LL BE STUCK-- ICED OVER FOR GOOD.
HI, THERE! I'M BOB CRAIG, AND PHYLLIS AND I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOLKS FOR SAVING OUR LIVES.
GOTTA KEEP MY FACE AWAY FROM HIM-- NOT BLOW MY I.D.
YEAH, NO SWEAT. LOOK, CYKE-- WE GOT THE HULK ON ICE. WHATTA WE DO WITH HIM?
WE CONTACT BANNER'S LAST KNOWN BASE OF OPERATIONS-- GAMMA IN NEW MEXICO.
WE HAVE TO, BOBBY. OUR FACILITIES CAN'T HOLD HIM. HE'S JUST TOO DANGER-OUS. AND BESIDES, DON'T YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED?
NUH-UH. HE WAS RUNNING FROM SHIELD FOR SOME REASON. WE CAN'T--
AND SO--
... WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS, QUARTERMAIN. ALTHOUGH IT'S CLEAR THAT GAMMA IS THE ONLY PLACE CAPABLE OF HOLDING THE HULK, IT'S EQUALLY CLEAR THAT BANNER WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM IT.
SPARTAN PRI
A DIVISION OF WORLD
I'M A PERSONAL FRIEND OF BRUCE'S, CYCLOPS. HE HAS NO REASON TO FEAR US. BUT AS YOU WITNESSED, THE HULK IS MORE OF A MENACE THAN EVER. AND HE HAS TO BE PLACED IN CUSTODY. WE'LL BE THERE IN TWO HOURS.
JEAN AND BOBBY AREN'T THRILLED WITH ME RIGHT NOW, CAN'T SAY THAT I BLAME THEM... BUT WE CAN'T HANDLE THE HULK ON OUR OWN. HE'S TOO DANGEROUS!
STILL... I DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF QUARTERMAIN'S VOICE. HE SOUNDED AS IF HE WAS HIDING SOMETHING... LIKE THE TRUTH. WHY SHOULD A GOVERNMENT AGENT BOTHER TELLING A "MUTIE" LIKE ME THE TRUTH?
I HOPE I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING!


EXCELLENT... CLAY. SEND AS MANY PEOPLE AS IT TAKES. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO FINALLY END THE MENACE OF THE HULK.
I TRUST WE'RE OF ONE MIND ON THIS MATTER?
ABSOLUTELY! I KNOW WHERE MY RESPONSIBILITY LIES.

NEXT: "THE HULK! X-FACTOR! BETTY BANNER! THE HULKBUSTERS! DOC SAMSON! S.H.I.E.L.D. UNLEASHED! EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN BUILDING UP TO COMES TOGETHER IN--"CROSSROADS!" BE THERE!!